

**--CLAIM OF BENEFIT TO PRIOR APPLICATIONS**

B / This application is a continuation application of United States Patent Application entitled "Recursive Partitioning Placement Method and Apparatus," filed on December 6, 2000, and having the Serial No.

09/732,181--

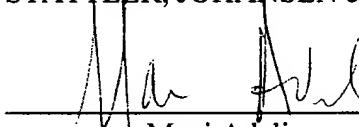
**REMARKS**

This Second Preliminary Amendment supplies the serial number of the parent application in the claim of benefit. The original claim of benefit was included in the first Preliminary Amendment that was submitted with the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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